

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDED RULE
TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING CHAPTER 410-12: REGULATION OF
ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE; RULE 410-12-.03 RULES FOR NURSE
PRACTITIONERS
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Nursing (hereinafter "Board") proposes to adopt an amended rule to the Rules of the Georgia Board of Nursing, Chapter 410-12. The proposed amended rule is to describe better the requirements of a nurse practitioner recognized by the Board to engage in advanced practice registered nursing.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the synopsis of the proposed amended rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the synopsis of the proposed amended rule may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Board of Nursing's web page at www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Georgia Board of Nursing office at (478) 207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on September 18, 2008 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed new rule. At the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received on or before September 9, 2008. Written comments should be addressed to Randall Vaughn Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 478-207-1660.

The proposed amended rule will be considered for adoption by the Georgia Board of Nursing at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:05 a.m. September 18, 2008 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 30217. According to legal advice rendered by the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Nursing has the authority to adopt the proposed new rule for Chapter 410-12, pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-3 (1) and (1.1), 43-26-5 (a) (2), (11) and (21), and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-25.

In accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 (a) (4), the Board voted at its board meeting on July 10, 2008, that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose

excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and that any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-1 *et seq.*

The Board also voted at its board meeting on July 10, 2008, that, in order to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§43-26-1 *et seq.* it is not legal or feasible to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as required by the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this rule will impact every licensee in the same manner and will have the same impact on each business that is independently, owned and operated in the field of nursing.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 14th day of August, 2008

Randall Vaughn
Division Director
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

Posted: August 14, 2008

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF NURSING RULES
RULE 410-12-.03**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this rule is to update the rules related to nurse practitioners.

MAIN FEATURE: The main feature of this rule is to describe better the requirements of a nurse practitioner recognized by the Board to engage in advanced practice registered nursing.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING RULES, CHAPTER 410-12
REGULATION OF ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE; RULE 410-12-.03 RULES FOR
NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

NOTE: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

410-12-.03 Rules for Nurse Practitioners. Amended.

(1) Definition

(a) A nurse practitioner is a registered professional nurse who ~~has completed/graduated from a post-basic educational program for nurse practitioners, at least nine (9) months in length, which includes theoretical and practical components and evidence of advanced pharmacology within the curriculum or as a separate course.~~ is recognized by the Board to engage in advanced practice registered nursing.

(b) ~~A nurse practitioner holds current certification from the certifying organization of the American Nurses Association (ANA), National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP), the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, And Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN, formerly NAACOG), or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and is authorized to practice by the Board. The nurse practitioner practices in a manner consistent with Chapter 410-13 of the Georgia Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations.~~

(2) Scope and Standards of Practice for the Nurse Practitioner:

(a) The nurse practitioner provides primary advanced practice nursing care and medical services specific to the nurse practitioner respective specialty to individuals, families and groups, emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention as well as the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic diseases. The nurse practitioner collaborates as necessary with a variety of individuals to diagnose and manage clients' health care problems. ~~The nurse practitioner must practice in a manner that is not inconsistent with the standards of practice of the Board approved organization by which he/she is certified:~~

(b) ~~American Academy of Nurse Practitioners *Standards of Practice*; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners *Standards of Practice for PNP/As*; American~~

~~Nurses Association Standards of Practice for the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; or Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses Standards for the Nursing Care of Women and Newborns. The nurse practitioner practices in a manner consistent with the nationally recognized nursing practice standards for the respective nurse practitioner specialty that is consistent with the Board-recognized national certification organization identified in Rule 410-12-.12.~~

(3) Requirements for initial authority to Practice as a Nurse Practitioner:

~~(a) Prior to January 1, 1999, an applicant who submits the following items may be authorized to practice as a nurse practitioner:~~ evidence of current licensure as a registered professional nurse in Georgia;

~~(b) Beginning January 1, 1999, for initial authority to practice as a nurse practitioner, an applicant must submit an official transcript which verifies completion/graduation with a master's or higher degree in nursing for the respective nurse practitioner specialty and evidence of advanced pharmacology within the curriculum or as a separate course, in addition to the requirements stated in 410-12-.03 (3)(a) 1., 2. and 4. a completed Board application with required fee;~~

~~(c) official transcript which verifies completion/graduation from a post-basic educational program for nurse practitioners, at least nine (9) months in length which includes theoretical and practical components and with a master's or higher degree in nursing for the respective nurse practitioner specialty or a graduate level post-master's certificate in an advanced practice registered nurse practitioner specialty and evidence of advanced pharmacology within the curriculum or as a separate course; and, advanced physical assessment, and pathophysiology.~~

~~(d) verification of current national certification from the respective Board-recognized certifying organization.~~

(4) The applicant must document one of the following within in four (4) years immediately preceding the date of current application:

(a) 500 hours of practice as an advanced practice registered nurse;

(b) graduation from a nursing education program or a graduate level post-master's certificate in an advanced practice registered nurse practitioner specialty within the four.

(c) completion of a Georgia Board-approved advanced practice registered nurse reentry/refreshers program within the four (4) years immediately preceding the date of current application.

(5) An applicant who is unable to meet the requirements of (4) (a) (b) or (c) must satisfactorily complete the following:

(a) 40 hours of study relevant to advanced registered nursing practice within one (1) year of the date of application. Relevant advanced practice registered nurse study must include at least four

(4) different content areas. The Board may waive the 40 hours of study if the applicant has passed a national recognized certification organization examination within the four (4) years immediately preceding the date of current application.

(b) current health care provider course of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation unless completed within one (1) year of the date of application with a Georgia Board of Nursing approved RN reentry;

(c) study of the Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-1 *et seq.* and Board rules; and

(d) 160 hours of relevant advanced practice registered nursing supervised by an advanced practice registered nurse in a comparable specialty area and in accordance with other Board criteria.

~~(4)~~ (6) Biennial Renewal of Board Authorization to Practice as a Nurse Practitioner:

(a) The date for renewal of Board authorization as a nurse practitioner will coincide with the renewal of the registered professional nurse license period. Authorization shall be administratively revoked if not renewed.

~~(b) Authorization to practice as a nurse practitioner shall expire on January 31 of odd-numbered years and shall be administratively revoked if not renewed.~~

~~(c)~~ (b) For continued authority to practice, the nurse practitioner must submit:

1. a completed renewal application for advanced nursing practice; renew licensure as a registered professional nurse in Georgia;

2. a copy of current national certification which bears the expiration date; and submit a completed renewal application for advanced nursing practice;

3. payment of the renewal fee. Attest to advanced practice registered nurse practice in accordance with applicable Georgia laws and rules; and

4. submit payment of the renewal fee.

~~(d) A renewal application, received with a postmark date after January 31 of odd-numbered years, will be returned to the applicant. Thereafter, the applicant must apply to reinstate the authorization.~~

(c) Any licensee who fails to renew authorization must apply to reinstate the authorization.

Authority §§ 43-26-3 (1) and (1.1), 43-26-5 (a) (2), (11), and (21), 43-1-25.